

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

28 JULY 1964

~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Laos

a. So far there has been nothing to indicate that Operation Triangle has been fully launched.

b. The first contact with Pathet Lao forces during the operation seems to have occurred yesterday north of Vang Vieng. The Pathet Lao decamped, presumably to take a better position farther north.

c. The main diplomatic activity is in Moscow, where Butler continues his talks today. We expect the Soviets will tell him once again that the US has made it impossible for the Geneva co-chairmen to do, and that another big conference is needed.

d. Moscow has for some time displayed its distaste for all things Laotian, probably because it has little real influence in the situation.

2. Malaysia

a. The riots in Singapore have tapered off.

(Cont'd)

b. The episode, however, has strained relations--always delicate--between the Chinese-dominated Singapore government and the Malay-run central government in Kuala Lumpur.

c. The Singapore leaders think Kuala Lumpur should have clamped down on its Malay extremists before they got out of hand.

d. They also fear their political support among the Singapore Chinese has been seriously weakened.

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3. Congo

a. Tshombé is back in Leopoldville after a stop in Stanleyville. He apparently glad-handed everyone he met on his eastern trip, including UN representatives, trying to give the impression of a man in charge of an effective government.

b. More towns in the Kindu area are reported in rebel hands. It is not clear how close the rebels have come to Stanleyville.

(Cont'd)

c. According to a [redacted] journalist who arrived in Bujumbura from Albertville last Friday, would-be rebel leader Soumialot, for reasons that are not clear, has decided that Americans in the eastern Congo are to be "punished."

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d. We doubt that the rank-and-file rebels make much distinction as to nationality among whites they choose to molest.

4. South Vietnam

a. The pace of the Viet Cong's latest drive may be slackening. There has been no large-scale attack since last Thursday.

b. Attacks in company and battalion strength, coming almost daily in the past week or so, have taken a heavy toll in government casualties and weapons. Enemy losses have also been quite stiff.

c. Viet Cong terrorists, however, continue very active in the countryside.

d. So far this month, 25 rural officials have been murdered by the Communists, and more than 70 kidnapped, the worst record to date in 1964.

5. Cyprus

a. Makarios is in Athens to discuss the situation and renew the "common line," as he said on leaving Nicosia yesterday.

b. What he meant by "common line" is not clear. He also said he does not believe an "agreed solution" is possible. As far as we know, his own line still calls for independence and self-determination for Cyprus.

c. It may be that he is suspicious of what Athens has been up to in the Geneva discussions. In any case, his leaving Nicosia indicates belief on his part that no one will try to double-cross him while he is away.

d. The Greeks are putting pressure on Turkish villages in the Famagusta area, and another situation may be building up in which the guns could start going off by themselves. We see no signs at the moment, however, of an intent to launch the general attack that Makarios has threatened.

NOTES

- A. Iraq The regime placed its security forces on alert in Baghdad during the weekend because of unrest among Moslem factions opposed to its nationalization policy. An unknown number of arrests were made. Despite the obvious signs that Arif has succeeded in arousing widespread opposition, he seems determined to stick to his guns.
- B. India Port workers on the Bombay docks are threatening a strike which would slow unloading of desperately needed P.L. 480 food supplies. This is part of an increasingly tense situation resulting from maldistribution of food, especially grains, and rising prices. Protest demonstrations are becoming increasingly vigorous and frequent.
- C. Algeria Ben Bella has slipped badly in public esteem, according to the US Embassy in Algiers.
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- Ben Bella's posters are deliberately defaced, and the locals are everywhere ready to say unpleasant things about his "socialism."

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